

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 INT-05

EB-04 OMB-01 COME-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 AGR-05 CIEP-01 /047 W
----- 122349

R 251026Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7330

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 10154

MANILA PASS USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRE, EAGR

SUBJECT: TARBELA DAM PROBLEMS

REFS: A. ISLAMABAD 9249

B. ISLAMABAD A-166, 21 OCTOBER 1974

1. SUMMARY. RECENTLY CONCLUDED SPECIAL MEETING OF CONSULTANTS AND ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS ON TARBELA DAM PROBLEMS HAS RESULTED IN NEW ASSESSMENT OF EVENTS AND CAUSES OF RUPTURE IN TUNNEL TWO. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT RUPTURE OCCURRED FROM INSIDE THE TUNNEL OUTWARD. EMBASSY NOTES INCREASING OPTIMISM CONCERNING POSSIBILITY THAT REPAIRS CAN BE MADE PRIOR TO NEXT WATER STORAGE SEASON. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF EXCELLENT CONSULTATION PROGRAM OCTOBER 21-22 FOR EMBASSY ECONOFFS ARRANGED BY CONGEN IN LAHORE FRANK DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH SHAHNAWAZ KHAN, CHAIRMAN OF WAPDA. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE INTAKE GATES STUCK IN PARTIALLY OPEN POSITION

CAUSING SUFFICIENT TURBULENCE IN FLOW TO CAUSE RUPTURE OF TUNNEL TWO FROM INSIDE. THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR DEBRIS NOTED IN THE TUNNEL OUTFLOW FOR A PERIOD PRIOR TO THE TIME WHEN THE BREAK BECAME IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS. THE EROSION OF THE TUNNEL LED TO EROSION IN THE ABUTMENT OVER THE RUPTURE AND THE FORMATION OF A CAVITY. IT WAS THE COLLAPSE OF THIS CAVITY OVER THE RUPTURE WHICH BROUGHT THE SITUATION SHARPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE AT THE SITE AND CAUSED THE MIDDLE GATE ON TUNNEL TWO TO FALL INTO A NEAR-CLOSED POSITION.

3. ON DAY PRIOR TO CONVERSATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN OF WAPDA, THE INTAKE TO TUNNEL TWO WAS CLOSED. WATER REMAINS IN THE TUNNEL DUE TO BACKWASH FROM THE RIVER BELOW THE DAM. HOWEVER, TWO ENGINEERS HAVE TRAVERSED PORTION OF THE TUNNEL BY BOAT AND REPORT THAT, OTHER THAN IN THE AREA OF THE RUPTURE, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO VISIBLE EROSION FROM THE WATER LINE UPWARD. THIS WAS VERY ENCOURAGING TO SHAHNAWAZ KHAN AS HE STATED IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO REPAIR ANY EROSION ON THE FLOOR AND LOWER WALLS OF THE TUNNEL THAN ON THE CEILING. CONTRACTORS ARE PRESENTLY PLACING A BULKHEAD DAM IN THE OUTLET AREA OF TUNNEL TWO AND WILL THEN PROCEED TO PUMP IT DRY. THE TUNNEL SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE FOR COMPLETE INSPECTION BY NOVEMBER 5 AT THE LATEST, ACCORDING TO KHAN.

4. THE CHAIRMAN WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABILITY OF REPAIRS BEING COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE NEXT WATER STORAGE SEASON. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS COULD BE DONE.

5. THIS ASSESSMENT CONFIRMS INFORMATION SECURED ONE WEEK EARLIER FROM ENGINEERS AT THE SITE BY USAID ENGINEERING OFFICER. IT WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BY THE HARZA REPRESENTATIVE RESIDENT IN LAHORE WHO, HOWEVER, WAS SOMEWHAT MORE GUARDED IN HIS OPTIMISM CONCERNING COMPLETION OF REPAIRS PRIOR TO THE NEXT WATER STORAGE SEASON. HARZA REP DID NOT WISH TO COMMIT HIMSELF BEFORE THERE HAD BE A COMPLETE INSPECTION OF ALL FOUR TUNNELS.

BYROADE

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